

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-37. (canceled).

38. (currently amended): A gene amplification primer, wherein said primer comprises the nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs.:17-20, or the complement thereof~~a region of at least 15 continuous nucleotides of either SEQ ID NO:3 or the complement thereof, wherein said region comprises at least two positions wherein a nucleotide unique to *Vibrio vulnificus* is present compared to other bacteria of the genus *Vibrio*, and wherein said at least two positions are selected from the group consisting of positions 9, 81, 138, 153, 172, 180, 208, 228, 237, 288, and 540 of SEQ ID NO: 3, and wherein said primer is also not more than 40 nucleotides in length.~~

39.-48. (canceled).

49. (withdrawn): A method for detecting, quantifying, or identifying *Vibrio vulnificus*, wherein the primer of claim 38 is used.

50. (currently amended): A kit for detecting, quantifying, or identifying *Vibrio vulnificus*, wherein ~~the said kit comprises the primer of claim 38~~any one of claims 38 to 40, 43 and 44 is used.